

Assessing the diverse impacts of transdisciplinary research on poverty reduction: the case of the NCCR North-South

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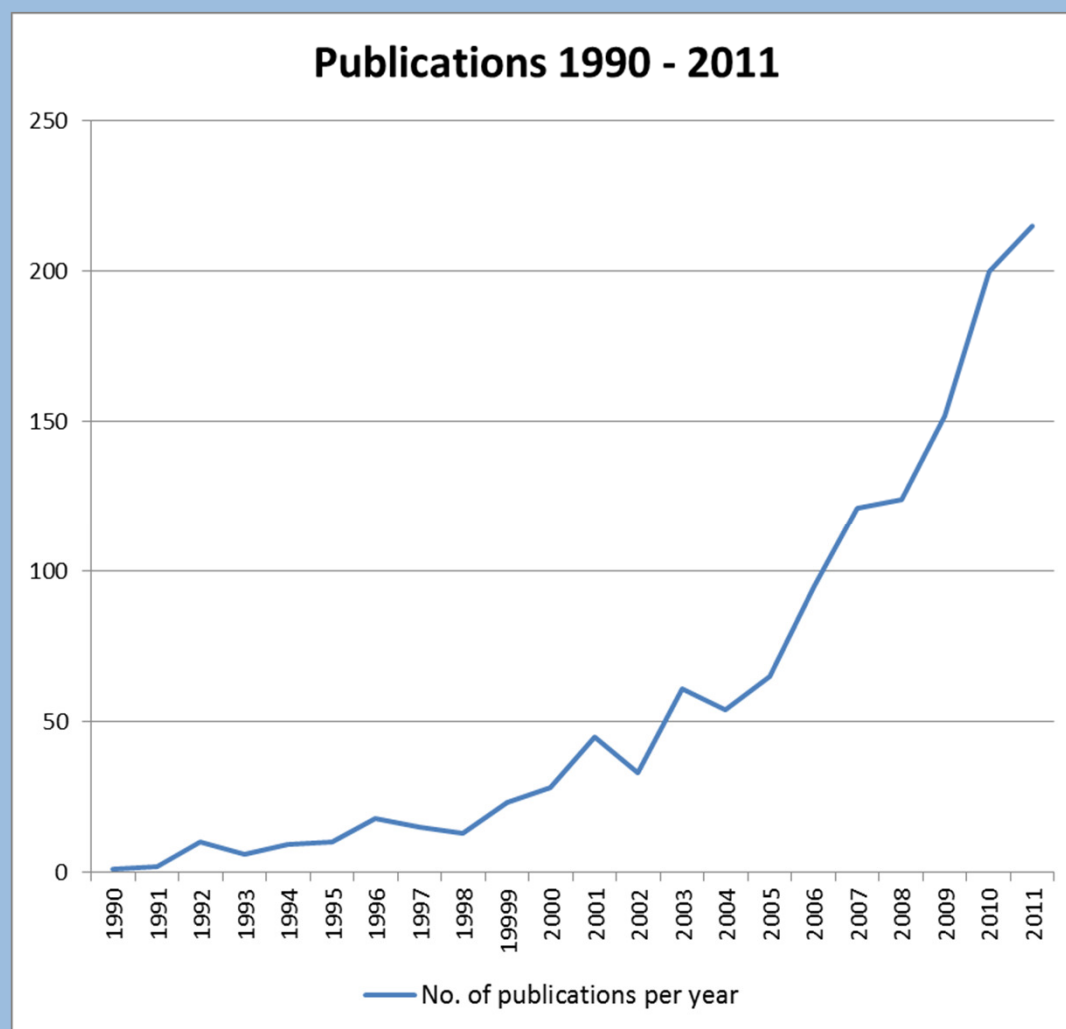
University of Bern, Switzerland

Simon Hearn, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), UK

Gabriela Wülser, Institute for Environmental Decisions, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Thomas Breu, Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), Switzerland

Growing field: innovation and sustainable development



Source: Claudia Michel, 2012

The impact of science on society: utility, commercialisation, wealth creation



Commission for Technology and Innovation, www.ctistartup.ch

The impact of science on society: the economy, society, and environment



Karl Herweg

Measuring economic, social, and environmental impacts

DO YOU REALLY MEASURE THE
IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
IN KILOGRAM OF PEER-REVIEWED
PUBLICATIONS PER FARMER?



Karl Herweg

Criticism of quantitative indicators

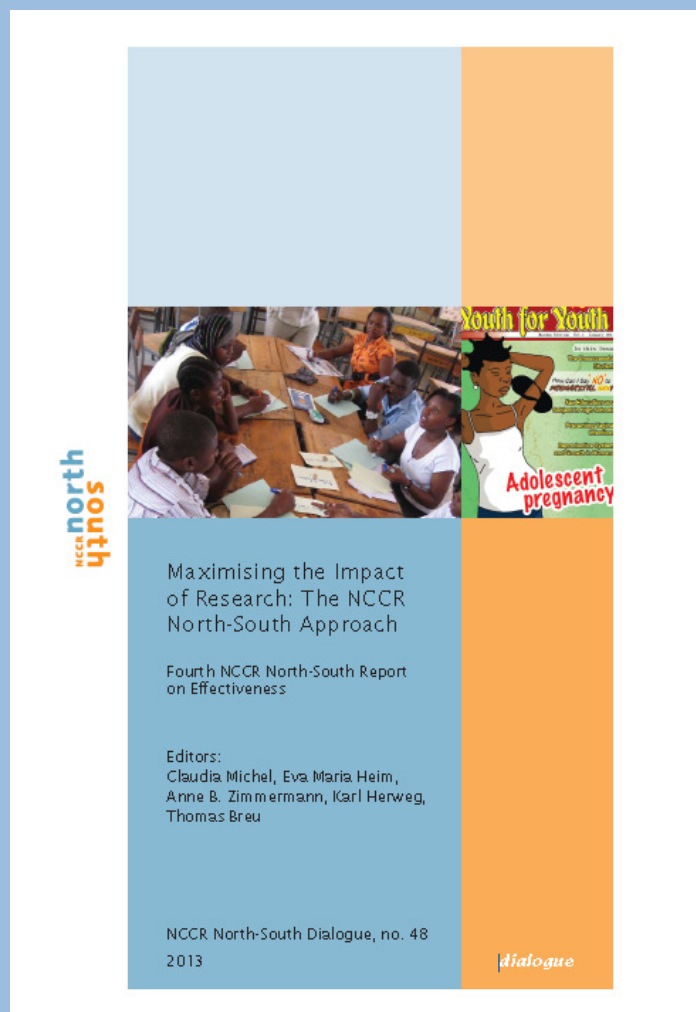
“The search for quantitative impact indicators has delivered an array of novel metrics that represent low-order impact, technometrics that privilege private over public interest, and sociometrics that rely on macro-level data with no credible link to the efforts of particular researchers”

Donovan 2007, p. 591

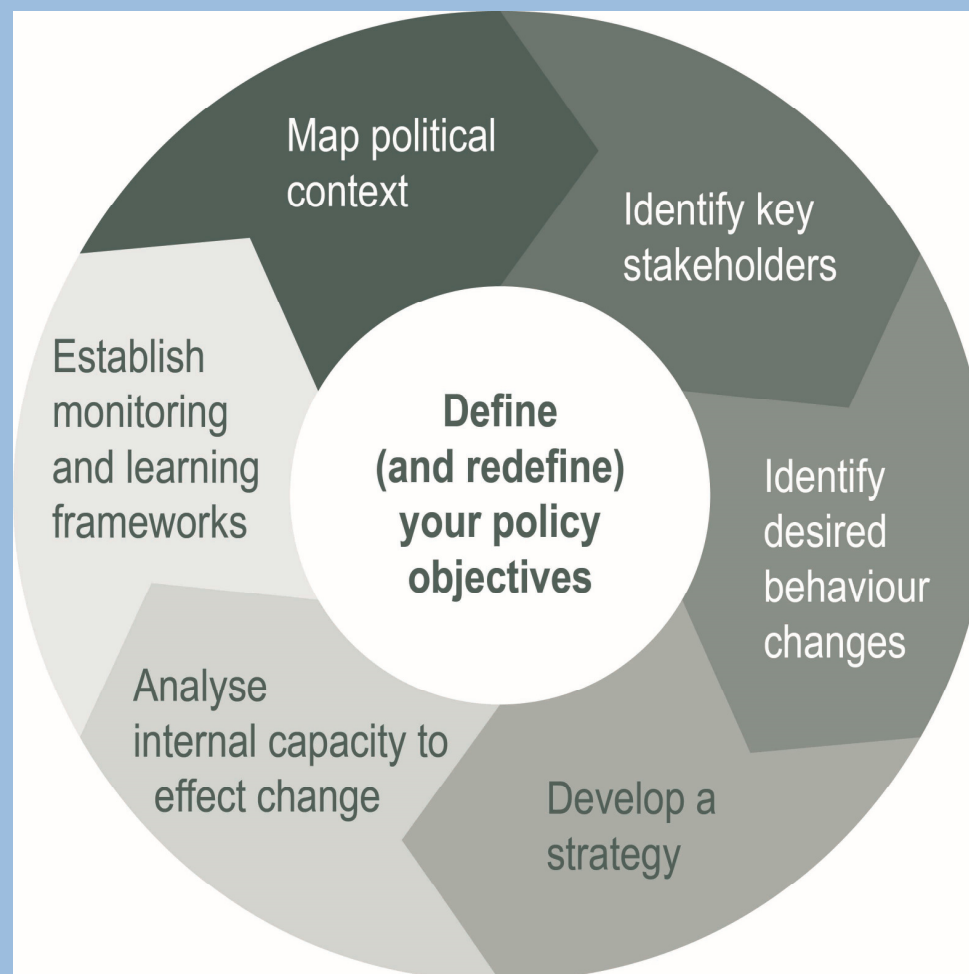
The NCCR North-South programme



How do we orient research projects towards maximising impacts?



ROMA: Rapid Outcome Mapping Approach



*Overseas Development
Institute ODI*

Research projects



Disaster risk management, Bolivia



Teenage pregnancy, Tanzania



Mobile pastoralists, Sahel



Forest governance, Pakistan



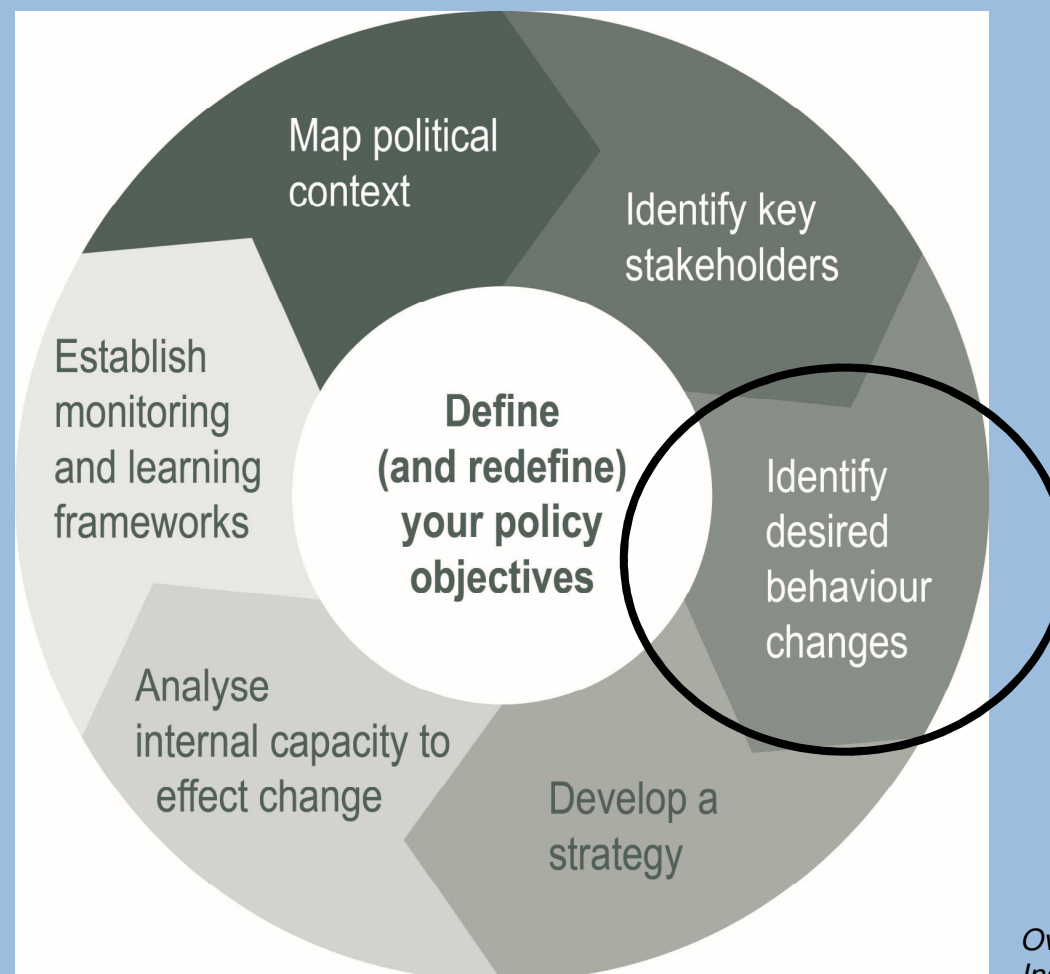
Rural development, Tajikistan



Migration, Nepal

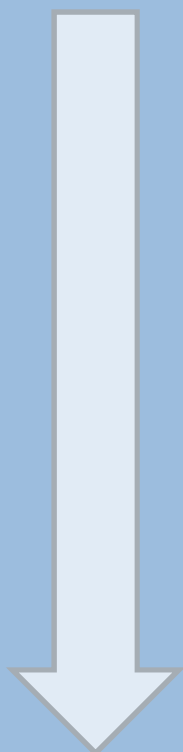
NCCR North-South Dialogue No. 48

Identify desired behaviour changes



Outcome challenge

Early signs of progress



	Expect to see the stakeholder
1	
2	
	Like to see the stakeholder
3	
4	
	Love to see the stakeholder
5	
6	

Transformative change

Lessons from the NCCR North-South

- > Stronger engagement between transdisciplinary researchers and evaluation specialists
- > Planning, supporting, and evaluating impacts on all levels: individual, programme, institution, university, STI policy
- > Complement internal self-assessment with external evaluation
- > Evaluate outcomes and impacts at different times after completion of the programme

